

As a person who worked in the broadcast industry for several years, I am appalled that a media giant the size of Sinclair Broadcasting can be allowed to order its stations to pre-empt their regular programming to air a political anti-Kerry documentary as news without allowing equal time or showing a documentary such as "Going Upriver" in order to offer a balanced perspective. I have already had reason to question the efficacy of allowing the public airways to be controlled by a small number of large corporations. Clearly, Sinclair has forgotten its obligation to serve local viewers and is instead forcing its own agenda on citizens on a national scale. I urge you to intervene and stop Sinclair from committing a clear abuse on the public and a lesson on the evils of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

If this flagrant abuse of the public airways is allowed, I will lobby long and hard for returning the FCC to the type of regulation that held local stations and corporations responsible for the trust which they have been given.

This issue will not go away. Thank you for your consideration of this extremely important issue which affects all broadcast entities.